

## Fluorescein angiography and Optical Coherence Tomography. Patient Information

### What is fluorescein angiography?

Fluorescein angiography is a common test that helps us assess blood vessels in the retina. It is important to make the diagnosis for many common eye conditions such as wet macular degeneration, retinal vein occlusion and diabetic retinopathy.

### What happens during the test?

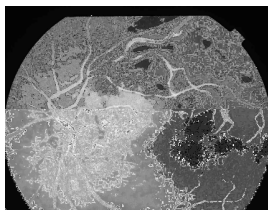
Initially the pupils are dilated with a drop, this can make the vision blurry and you are advised not to drive following angiography. A small canula is placed in a vein in the back of the hand and a small volume of dye is injected. The dye flows around the body and into the eye. A series of photographs are taken as the dye flows into the eye.

### What happens after the test?

Following the test your eye will feel very blurry, and you may be asked to stay in the unit for some time before leaving. The skin develops a yellow tinge and the fluorescein may colour your urine.

### Is it safe?

There is a risk of fainting and collapse in patients undergoing angiography, do please tell the nurse if you have any allergies or ongoing medical conditions.



A fluorescein angiogram showing blocked retinal blood vessels in the Left eye (Branch retinal vein occlusion)

## Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

### What is OCT?

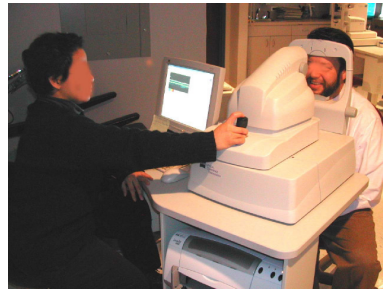
OCT is a relatively new technology that uses lasers to scan the retina. It creates a map of retinal thickness and also shows pockets of fluid within the retina.

### Why is it useful?

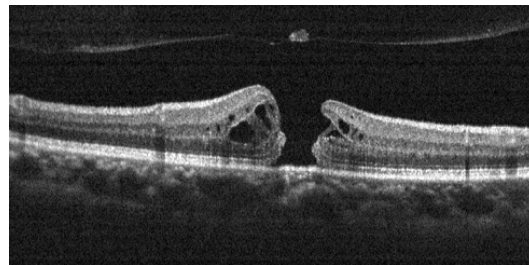
OCT is a useful addition to clinical assessment of many patients with macular disease. It gives clear pictures of the retina and also measures the thickness accurately. These measurements can be compared to assess whether the retinal treatments are working.

### Is it safe?

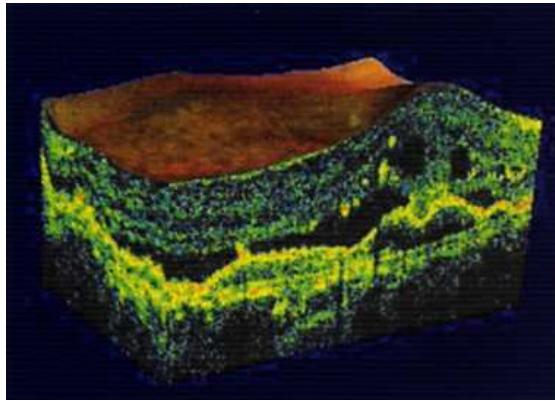
OCT scanning is quite safe, your pupils will however be dilated when the retina is scanned, during the scan you will see a bright light, following the scan the vision maybe temporally blurred.



OCT Scan in action



An OCT scan of a macular hole.



A 3D OCT scan of  
macular degeneration

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